SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE
C. & S. B. REGISTRY
No. S. B. D. 3122.
26/1/32.

THE NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS, FRIDAY, JANUARY 22, 1932

MUNICIPAL SALARIES

"Trifling." Economies

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—I am not nor ever have been an employee of the S.M.C. so I write without prejudice or any bias when I attempt a counterblast against those who enter your columns with suggestions of economy on the lines of reductions of salary or restricting home leave to periods with "a minimum of 10 to 15 years service."

I am afraid that such correspondents must be of that mean employers class which does not like the example of decent wage and leave provision set by Shanghai's biggest employing body the S.M.C.

Reductions in salary are nothing but income tax in effect if not in name and if inevitable should like income tax have a level of exemption and be in every way similar to this tax in England as regards relief for the family man and be graduated to bring the weight on to the shoulders of those able to bear it. As to home leave I have worked under contract for a Shanghai firm and salaried home leave with passage paid both ways was an integral part of my contract. I take it that the S.M.C. employees are protected by similar contract provisions and therefore no effect would be seen in tax reduction until the present contracts expire by which time we hope that better times will have arrived. Another point which seems always to be neglected by public advocates of this kind of economy is to find out and tell us how much reduction of rates will ensure from their schemes. Let us take the concrete case above and put it in this form: If leave is restricted to once in 15 years the rates will be reduced by X. How much is X? Perhaps some statistician having access to the Council's books will give us the result.

To me it seems as though too many people are willing to sacrifice hundreds of dollars of other peoples incomes in order to save trifling sums per annum in their own.

[illegible] LARGIVE.

Shanghai, Jan. 19, 1932.

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SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE
S. B. ~~REGISTRY~~
S. B. D. 3122
21. 1. 32.

THE NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS, WEDNESDAY, ~~JANUARY 20, 193~~

MUNICIPAL FINANCE

Passages for Officials

To the Editor of the
"NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—With regard to the letter from "J. C." in this morning's issue of your paper, most rate-payers will agree, I think, that economy could be effected with regard to home leave of municipal employees. Is there any reason, for instance, why such a large number are allowed first-class fares, whereas many rate-payers have to travel second, and are content to do so? A few years ago a Municipal Council employee with his family returned from long leave. He had been back only about a year when it was time for him to retire. They went home again, first class fares provided. Another employee with his family returned about fourteen months ago. He retires in a few months time, and goes home again on first class fares. These are two known cases to the writer, but doubtless there are others. One does not blame the individuals concerned, for many would appreciate being in the same boat, but cases of this kind do not exactly spell economy. Increase in municipal rates and school fees will without doubt cause a good deal of hardship to many rate-payers at the present difficult time.

PRO-ECONOMY.

Shanghai, Jan. 19, [illegible]

***In accordance with the practice prevailing in most Government [illegible] vices passages are [illegible] a certain rank are [illegible] class, others [illegible]

Reg.
Please keep.
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THE NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS, TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 1932

MUNICIPAL ECONOMY

The Holiday Question

To the Editor of the
"North-China Daily News."

Sir,—After perusing page 46 of to-day's Municipal Gazette on the Council's deliberations on the Financial Situation for 1932, one feels impelled to turn back to page 45 and enquire whether an economy cannot be effected in the matter of Long Leaves.

We find:

2 Chief Inspectors
9 British and Russian Sergeants
2 Assistant Nurses
and 4 Assistant School Mistresses

due for Long Leave within the next 4 or 5 months.

The pertinent question is how many of those who have to foot the bill (14 per cent. at present with bright prospects of the added 2 per cent. soon) ever themselves have a chance of getting such extensive leaves?

Should not a minimum of, say, 10 or 15 years of service be required before such Leaves be considered?

Shanghai is not such an unhealthy place that one must needs run away every 4 or 5 years for 8 or 9 months to try and forget the terrible climate.

J. C.

Shanghai, Jan. 15, 1932.

Reg.
Please keep.
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